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material that is different from the first material and having a second stiffness that is less than the first stiffness; and

a forward lean adjuster mounted on a lower end of the upper region to engage the heel hoop.

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed on March 26, 2002, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this application, amendments have been made to the claims. The claims as presented are believed to be in allowable condition.

Claims 1, 5-27, 29-56 and 58-63 are pending upon entry of this amendment. Claims 1, 5, 10, 16, 18, 27, 29, 34, 40, 42, 51, 58 and 62 are hereby amended. Claims 2-4, 28 and 57 have been cancelled, the subject matter of those claims having been added to claims 1, 27 and 51. No new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's finding that claims 4-8, 10, 11, 16-18, 28-32, 34, 35, 40-42 and 57-62 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Applicants have rewritten claims 10, 16, 18, 34, 40, 42 and 62 in independent form to include all of the limitations of their respective base claims and intervening claims. Applicants have also amended independent claims 1, 27 and 51 to include the limitations of allowable claims 4, 28 and 57, respectively. Each of the remaining claims depends from one of claims 1, 10, 16, 27, 34, 40 and 51, and, consequently, each of the pending claims is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicants note that non-elected claims 24-26 and 48-50 respectively depend from claims 1 and 27, which Applicants believe to be generic claims. Because generic claims 1 and 27, as amended, have been found to be allowable, Applicants request the reinstatement and allowance of claims 24-26 and 48-50.

CONCLUSION

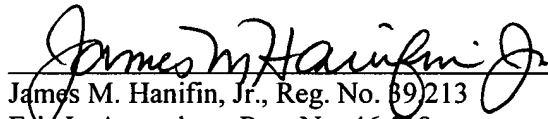
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner

believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reuss et al., Applicants



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X 06/26/02

MARKED-UP CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A highback for use with a gliding board component that interfaces with a rider's leg and is supportable by a gliding board, the highback comprising:

an upright support member constructed and arranged to be contacted by and to support a rear portion of the rider's leg, the support member including a lower portion and an upper portion, the support member being comprised of at least a first material having a first stiffness extending continuously from an upper end of the upper portion to at least a lower end of the upper portion; and

a pair of mounting locations integrally formed with the support member and being disposed on opposing sides of the lower portion thereof for mounting the highback to the gliding board component, the mounting locations being comprised of a second material that is different from the first material and has a second stiffness that is different from the first stiffness;

wherein the first stiffness is greater than the second stiffness, the lower portion includes a heel cup configured to hold a heel portion of a boot, the heel cup being comprised substantially of the second material, and wherein the support member includes an upper margin along the upper end of the upper portion thereof comprised of a material that is different from the first material and has a stiffness that is less than the first stiffness.

5. (Amended) The highback according to claim 1 [4], wherein the support member further includes opposing side margins along the upper portion thereof comprised of a material that is different from the first material.

10. (Amended) A highback for use with a gliding board component that interfaces with a rider's leg and is supportable by a gliding board, the highback comprising:

an upright support member constructed and arranged to be contacted by and to support a rear portion of the rider's leg, the support member including a lower portion and an upper portion, the support member being comprised of at least a first material having a first stiffness extending continuously from an upper end of the upper portion to at least a lower end of the upper portion;

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a pair of mounting locations integrally formed with the support member and being disposed on opposing sides of the lower portion thereof for mounting the highback to the gliding board component, the mounting locations being comprised of a second material that is different from the first material and has a second stiffness that is different from the first stiffness, wherein the first stiffness is greater than the second stiffness; and

[The highback according to claim 2, further comprising] a forward lean actuator mount that is constructed and arranged to support a forward lean actuator thereon, the forward lean actuator mount being disposed on the first material at the lower end of the upper portion.

16. (Amended) A highback for use with a gliding board component that interfaces with a rider's leg and is supportable by a gliding board, the highback comprising:

an upright support member constructed and arranged to be contacted by and to support a rear portion of the rider's leg, the support member including a lower portion and an upper portion, the support member being comprised of at least a first material having a first stiffness extending continuously from an upper end of the upper portion to at least a lower end of the upper portion; and

a pair of mounting locations integrally formed with the support member and being disposed on opposing sides of the lower portion thereof for mounting the highback to the gliding board component, the mounting locations being comprised of a second material that is different from the first material and has a second stiffness that is different from the first stiffness;

wherein the first material forms a cassette that is supported on the support member, wherein the cassette includes a body portion and a peripheral flange extending from the body portion, the flange being attached to the support member to connect the cassette thereto, and
[The highback according to claim 15,] wherein the support member is molded to the flange.

18. (Amended) A highback for use with a gliding board component that interfaces with a rider's leg and is supportable by a gliding board, the highback comprising:

an upright support member constructed and arranged to be contacted by and to support a rear portion of the rider's leg, the support member including a lower portion and an upper portion, the support member being comprised of at least a first material having a first stiffness

extending continuously from an upper end of the upper portion to at least a lower end of the upper portion; and

a pair of mounting locations integrally formed with the support member and being disposed on opposing sides of the lower portion thereof for mounting the highback to the gliding board component, the mounting locations being comprised of a second material that is different from the first material and has a second stiffness that is different from the first stiffness. [The highback according to claim 1,] wherein the first material is a composite and the second material is a plastic material that is molded to the composite.

27. (Amended) A highback for use with a gliding board component that interfaces with a rider's leg and is supportable by a gliding board, the highback comprising:

an upright support member including an upper portion and a heel cup integrally formed with the upper portion, the upper portion being constructed and arranged to be contacted by and to support a rear portion of the rider's leg, the heel cup being configured to hold a heel portion of a boot, the upper portion being comprised of a first material and the heel cup being comprised substantially of a second material that is different from the first material, the first material having a first stiffness and the second material having a second stiffness that is less than the first stiffness;

wherein the support member includes an upper margin along the upper end of the upper portion thereof comprised of a material that is different from the first material and has a stiffness that is less than the first stiffness.

29. (Amended) The highback according to claim 27 [28], wherein the support member further includes opposing side margins along the upper portion thereof comprised of a material that is different from the first material.

34. (Amended) A highback for use with a gliding board component that interfaces with a rider's leg and is supportable by a gliding board, the highback comprising:

an upright support member including an upper portion and a heel cup integrally formed with the upper portion, the upper portion being constructed and arranged to be contacted by and

to support a rear portion of the rider's leg, the heel cup being configured to hold a heel portion of a boot, the upper portion being comprised of a first material and the heel cup being comprised substantially of a second material that is different from the first material, the first material having a first stiffness and the second material having a second stiffness that is less than the first stiffness; and [The highback according to claim 27, further comprising]

a forward lean actuator mount that is constructed and arranged to support a forward lean actuator thereon, the forward lean actuator mount being disposed on the first material at the lower end of the upper portion.

40. (Amended) A highback for use with a gliding board component that interfaces with a rider's leg and is supportable by a gliding board, the highback comprising:

an upright support member including an upper portion and a heel cup integrally formed with the upper portion, the upper portion being constructed and arranged to be contacted by and to support a rear portion of the rider's leg, the heel cup being configured to hold a heel portion of a boot, the upper portion being comprised of a first material and the heel cup being comprised substantially of a second material that is different from the first material, the first material having a first stiffness and the second material having a second stiffness that is less than the first stiffness;

wherein the first material forms a cassette that is supported on the support member, wherein the cassette includes a body portion and a peripheral flange extending from the body portion, the flange being attached to the support member to connect the cassette thereto, and [The highback according to claim 39,] wherein the support member is molded to the flange.

42. (Amended) A highback for use with a gliding board component that interfaces with a rider's leg and is supportable by a gliding board, the highback comprising:

an upright support member including an upper portion and a heel cup integrally formed with the upper portion, the upper portion being constructed and arranged to be contacted by and to support a rear portion of the rider's leg, the heel cup being configured to hold a heel portion of a boot, the upper portion being comprised of a first material and the heel cup being comprised substantially of a second material that is different from the first material, the first

material having a first stiffness and the second material having a second stiffness that is less than the first stiffness. [The highback according to claim 27,] wherein the first material is a composite and the second material is a plastic material that is molded to the composite.

51. (Amended) A snowboard binding for securing a snowboard boot to a snowboard, the snowboard binding comprising:

a baseplate that is mountable to the snowboard;

a heel hoop disposed at a heel end of the baseplate; and

a highback pivotally supported by the baseplate adjacent the heel hoop, the highback being constructed and arranged to be contacted by and to support a rear portion of a rider's leg, the highback including:

an upper region that cooperates with the heel hoop to transmit forces between the rider's leg and the snowboard, the upper region being comprised of a first material having a first stiffness; and

a lower region integrally formed with the upper region, the lower region being pivotally mounted to the baseplate, the lower region being comprised of a second material that is different from the first material and having a second stiffness that is less than the first stiffness;

wherein the upper region includes an upper margin along the upper end thereof comprised of a material that is different from the first material and has a stiffness that is less than the first stiffness.

58. (Amended) The snowboard binding according to claim 51 [57], wherein the upper region further includes opposing side margins comprised of a material that is different from the first material.

62. (Amended) A snowboard binding for securing a snowboard boot to a snowboard, the snowboard binding comprising:

a baseplate that is mountable to the snowboard;

a heel hoop disposed at a heel end of the baseplate; and

a highback pivotally supported by the baseplate adjacent the heel hoop, the highback being constructed and arranged to be contacted by and to support a rear portion of a rider's leg, the highback including:

an upper region that cooperates with the heel hoop to transmit forces between the rider's leg and the snowboard, the upper region being comprised of a first material having a first stiffness;

a lower region integrally formed with the upper region, the lower region being pivotally mounted to the baseplate, the lower region being comprised of a second material that is different from the first material and having a second stiffness that is less than the first stiffness; and [The snowboard binding according to claim 51, further comprising]

a forward lean adjuster mounted on a lower end of the upper region to engage the heel hoop.